

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER
TAMMY LOGAN

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Tammy D. Logan, United States Navy, who is retiring after 20 years of service to our nation.

In May 1989, Senior Chief Logan, a native of my home state of Washington, enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Seaman Recruit. Over the course of the next twenty years, Senior Chief Logan served the Navy in a wide variety of roles, travelling throughout the country and overseas. Her assignments include Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) 32, Carrier Strike Group 5, and the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Throughout her career, Senior Chief Logan has demonstrated a commitment to continuing her education. In 2002, she earned her Associate of Arts degree from Saint Leo University, and she is currently scheduled to graduate from Excelsior College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in July of 2009.

Senior Chief Logan has also earned a variety of awards for her outstanding service to our country. Her personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (five awards), and the Good Conduct Medal (six awards).

I commend Senior Chief Logan for her commitment to our country and the sacrifices she has made on its behalf. On the occasion of her retirement, I thank her and her family for her honorable service to our nation and wish her fair winds and following seas as she concludes a distinguished career.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
TOWN OF WARSAW, OHIO, ON
THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS
FOUNDING

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Colonel William Simmons, a trusted friend of General George Washington, proved himself on the field of battle on numerous occasions; and

Whereas, for his more than 40 years of service, Colonel Simmons was given 4,297 acres of land in Southeastern Ohio; and

Whereas, Colonel Simmons laid out the plots of land in 1820 which were to become the town of Warsaw; and

Whereas, Warsaw was named after the capital of Poland, a country then attempting to achieve its own independence; and

Whereas, the official town charter dates back to June 3, 1834; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with friends, family, and the residents of Warsaw, as well as the entire 18th Congressional District, I congratulate the town of Warsaw on their 175th Ann-

versary. The town of Warsaw has been and will continue to be a shining example for those who are willing to fight for their freedom and liberty.

IN HONOR OF THE SACRAMENTO
REGIONAL CONSERVATION
CORPS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members, employees, and supporters of the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps on the 25th anniversary of the organization's founding last week. For the last twenty-five years, this fine organization has improved the Sacramento region, while also transforming the lives of thousands of corpsmembers.

In 1984, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce saw the need to create a program that would give Sacramento's young adults an opportunity to further their education and at the same time allow them to garner invaluable work experience. From that, the Sacramento Local Conservation Corps was born. In order to properly reflect their growth and commitment to the greater Sacramento region's wellbeing, they recently changed their name to the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps.

The Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps is a true community partnership. Exemplifying this is their board of directors, comprised of representatives from local financial institutions, law firms, businesses and government agencies. Their funding sources are equally as diverse. Each year the SRCC's committed staff looks far and wide in soliciting funding from government sources, private grants, and corporate supporters to ensure the SRCC can continue to serve the public and improve the lives of its corpsmembers.

The young men and women that make up the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps are just as varied as their supporters. They come from all neighborhoods of Sacramento, from all ethnicities and backgrounds, but they are united in their purpose, which is to improve their own lives and their community. They take on projects from clearing creeks and planting trees to teaching children about recycling and performing weatherization improvements on the homes of the less fortunate. Since their founding in 1984, over 4,500 young adults have taken part in this wonderful organization.

In doing so, corpsmembers often earn their high school diploma or GED. Upon graduating from the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps many have enrolled in college courses, while others have obtained well paying jobs. While in the program, corpsmembers learn valuable lessons in teamwork, community stewardship, and about how to become leaders in their own right.

Madam Speaker, as the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps celebrates their 25th Anniversary at the annual "Breakfast on the River," I am honored to congratulate SRCC Executive Director Dwight Washabaugh, Board President Philip Lantsberger, and the thousands of SRCC

alumni on this momentous achievement. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this fine organization for all the work they have done for the people of Sacramento, and to wish them continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 294 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Thursday, May 21 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on Roll Call vote #282 (on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 133), "Nay" on Roll Call vote #283 (Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair), "Nay" on Roll Call vote #284 (on ordering the previous question to H. Res. 464), "Nay" on Roll Call vote #285 (on agreeing to H. Res. 464), "Aye" on Roll Call vote #286 (on agreeing to the conference report to S. 454), "Aye" on Roll Call vote #287 (on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1676), "Aye" on Roll Call vote #288 (on agreeing to the Burgess of Texas amendment to H.R. 915), "Aye" on Roll Call vote #289 (on agreeing to the McCaul of Texas amendment to H.R. 915), "Aye" on Roll Call vote # 290 (on agreeing to the motion to recommit with instructions to H.R. 915), "Nay" on Roll Call vote # 291 (on passage of H.R. 915)

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2680, THE
"TERRITORIAL HEALTH PARITY
ACT OF 2009"

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill, H.R. 2680, to amend the Social Security Act to provide for parity in the Medicaid program for Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa. This bill, entitled the "Territorial Health Parity Act of 2009," would amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the federal funding caps now in place and to strike the statutorily set Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) of 50% that currently applies to all the territories. This bill would ensure that each of the territories, like each of the 50 states, receives an FMAP that accurately reflects its economic conditions and demographics. In addition, because certain data

needed to determine the true FMAP rates for the territories is presently lacking from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), this bill would direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to take steps to ensure that the FMAP rates for the territories are calculated in a fair and appropriate manner.

It is clear from all the evidence that the federal funding caps and the FMAP set in statute at 50% (which applies solely to the territories) have created significant health disparities between residents of the territories and their fellow citizens residing in the 50 states. Additionally, this policy has resulted in the territorial governments shouldering a disproportionately high financial liability when it comes to providing health care services to their indigent populations. Treating the territories in such fashion is as unjust in principle as it is harmful in effect.

The bill I have introduced today, along with my colleagues from the territories, is needed as Congress continues the debate over comprehensive health care reform. Based on a report released last year by the Office of Insular Affairs, within the Department of the Interior, the territories' health jurisdictions are "at the crossroads of a total breakdown." Combined with the financial state of the territorial governments, operating under decreasing revenues due to an economic downturn, the territories must bear a majority of the payment for indigent care under the current arrangements. Accordingly, eliminating the funding caps and adjusting the FMAPs for the territories are both critically important to public health in these U.S. jurisdictions.

Additionally there is a provision in this bill that extends the Medicaid program to the citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS), which is comprised of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Republic of Palau (RoP). The FAS governments have special relationships with the United States, as they entered into Compacts of Free Association that have been approved by the Congress of the United States. One component of these international, federally-negotiated agreements, allows for the unrestricted entry of citizens of the FAS to the United States, including the territories, without visas. Many FAS citizens have settled in the Pacific territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. They also constitute a significant and growing presence in the states of Hawaii and Arkansas. This section of the bill is important as it extends federal Medicaid coverage to them and would set an FMAP for otherwise qualified services rendered by the states and territories to them at 100%. This change in law would ensure that the territorial and state governments do not shoulder the sole costs of providing care for these citizens. I believe that this provision is consistent with the intent of the Medicaid program and provides for health equity to a disenfranchised population.

This bill represents policy for which I and my colleagues from the territories—Mr. PIERLUISI of Puerto Rico, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN of the Virgin Islands, Mr. SABLON of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Mr. FALCOMA of American Samoa—have collaborated. We are grateful for the support that we have received from Mr. SERRANO, who joins us as an original co-sponsor. Each of us and our predecessors has worked on improving the federal Medicaid

program for the territories. This bill is to serve as starting point for advancing parity in treatment for the territories, with respect to the national health care reform debate. There are other areas of federal law that need to be amended in order to improve public health in the territories and to bring full parity. These include, for example, amendments to law governing Medicare Part D and the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI). We look forward to working with the leaders in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the committees of jurisdiction in both chambers in advancing legislation addressing these issues, including the bill we have introduced today.

THE LUMBEE RECOGNITION ACT
AND THE THOMASINA E. JORDAN
INDIAN TRIBES OF VIRGINIA
FEDERAL RECOGNITION ACT OF
2009

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues to once again support H.R. 31, the Lumbee Recognition Act offered by Rep. MCINTYRE and H.R. 1385, the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Recognition Act of 2009 introduced by Rep. MORAN.

It is only fitting that these indigenous populations be officially recognized as Native peoples of this land. As we move forward as a Nation to level the playing field for all citizens, H.R. 31 and H.R. 1385 is undoubtedly a monumental step in righting these historical tragedies. I second the sentiments of our President in his remarks that Congress should intervene and recognize the Lumbee Indians as a tribal group.

Aptly extending federal distinction to the Lumbee, Chickahominy, Chickahominy—Eastern Division, Upper Mataponi, Rappahannock, Monacan and Nansemond tribes is the only way to address hundreds of years of injustice endured.

Federal recognition will dramatically transform the lives of the Native American tribes currently being considered. Our failure to extend federal recognition to them has meant years of discriminatory treatment. Countless individuals have had difficulty naming children, getting marriage licenses and even getting inducted into military service. Other communities have been disproportionately affected by interruptions and cuts in funding that are crucial to services provided by tribal programs.

It has been a long time coming, but it is high time that they are ascribed the rights and protections afforded to other citizens of our Country.

While this is a time marked by challenge for the entire Nation, it is my hope that this legislation be stalled no more and swiftly enacted into law.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important piece of legislation.

RESOURCES, REVENUE, AND RESPONSIBILITY: STRENGTHENING REVENUE AND BUDGET TRANSPARENCY THROUGH THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (commonly referred to as the Helsinki Commission), I recently returned from a meeting in Dublin, Ireland, with almost 100 parliamentarians from 30 countries where we had the opportunity to discuss responses to the global economic crisis. The meeting was organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and the Parliament of Ireland. All countries are grappling with difficult national problems related to the economic crisis. And indeed, we are in a crisis, and for America, this is the worst economy we've experienced since the Great Depression in the 1920s. People all across America, and in my home state of Florida, are losing their homes, their jobs, and are unable to provide for their families.

In addition to discussions on financial regulation, trade protectionism, good governance, and the social consequences of the crisis, I was pleased that we also discussed revenue transparency in the extractive industries as an integral part of creating more transparency in the global financial system overall. As legislators, we have a duty to find ways to relieve the suffering caused by the financial crisis through vital investments in health care, education, infrastructure, and job creation so that we can emerge from this crisis stronger and better than before. But part of the solution is looking at how we even got into this crisis. Transparency—or the lack of it—in the financial world is certainly one of the culprits. And as revenue dwindles, making the most of what we have becomes even more important.

The way I see it, improvements in revenue transparency, particularly when we focus on the extractive industries, are important in at least three key ways: The first is to help alleviate poverty. 3.5 billion people live in countries that are rich in oil, gas and minerals. With good governance, the exploitation of these resources can generate large revenues to foster growth and reduce poverty. Resource revenue transparency is necessary in order for citizens—the true owners of their country's natural wealth—to be able to demand greater accountability from their governments for spending that serves the public interest.

The second is to promote stable investment climates. Mandatory disclosure can help diminish the political instability caused by opaque governance. Since extractive industries are capital-intensive and dependent on long-term stability to generate returns, transparency of payments made to a government can help mitigate political and reputational risks and also allow shareholders to make better-informed assessments of opportunity costs.

The third area is to enhance energy security. Opening the extractive industries sector to greater public scrutiny is key to increasing civil society participation in government. This form